

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: SECURITY OF PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AGAINST POSSIBLE
TERRORIST ACTIVITY

REF: STATE 210312; STATE 205157; JAKARTA 12132

1. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S EMPHASIS ON INCREASING PROTECTION AGAINST TERRORISM AND SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBILITY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY DURING JAPANESE EMPEROR'S VISIT TO U.S., POST HAS TAKEN FOLLOWING STEPS TO ENHANCE PHYSICAL SECURITY:

1) TEMPORARILY CLOSED OFF FRONT STAIRWAY ACCESS TO SECOND FLOOR WHERE ALL AMERICANS ARE LOCATED (THIS TO BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT EMPEROR'S VISIT), 2) TESTED WORKING CONDITION OF INTERNAL ALARM SYSTEMS, 3) INSTRUCTED ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN USE OF SHOTGUNS MADE AVAILABLE TO US UNDER ANTI-TERRORISM PROGRAM, 4) BRIEFED LOCAL EMPLOYEES ON EMERGENCY PLANS AND PROCEDURES AND PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN, 5) SET UP PROGRAM OF FREQUENT RADIO NET CHECKS, AND 6) REQUESTED AND RECEIVED INCREASED POLICE SURVEILLANCE OF COMPOUND AND STAFF RESIDENCES DURING PERIOD OF EMPEROR'S VISIT.

2. DESPITE THESE ACTIONS, HOWEVER, THE CONSULATE BUILDING REMAINS VULNERABLE TO A SWIFTLY EXECUTED ATTACK. THIS IS AS MUCH TRUE FOR OFFICES ON SECOND FLOOR AS WELL AS FOR FIRST FLOOR PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS. SINCE GATES AND DOORWAYS ARE NORMALLY OPEN DURING WORKING HOURS, ANY TERRORIST COULD IN A MATTER OF SECONDS ENTER THE COMPOUND, GO THROUGH THE OPEN FRONT DOOR
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AND UP THE STAIRS TO SECOND FLOOR AMERICAN OFFICES. THERE,

ONLY A LOCKED WOODEN PANEL DOOR (TOP HALF GLASS) BARS ENTRANCE TO THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S OFFICE AND VAULT AREA.

3. GIVEN ADEQUATE WARNING, AMERICAN OFFICERS ON SECOND FLOOR HAVE RELATIVELY GOOD ACCESS TO THE "SAFETY" OF THE VAULT. THUS, ANY DELAY IN THE ADVANCE OF THE TERRORISTS WOULD BE CRITICAL. POST RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING STEPS BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM TIME FOR AMERICAN OFFICERS TO SECURE SECOND FLOOR AREA: 1) REPLACE EXISTING SLIDING METAL GRILL AT FRONT ENTRANCE WITH A DROP-TYPE METAL GRILL WHICH COULD BE LOWERED RAPIDLY, 2) INSTALL A METAL-FACED DOOR WITH CIPHER LOCK ON LANDING LEADING TO SECOND FLOOR (WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DELAYING A POSSIBLE TERRORIST ADVANCE WITHOUT UNDULY INTERRUPTING DAILY ROUTINE AND NORMAL FLOW OF TRAFFIC TO SECOND FLOOR AREA), 3) INSTALL ADDITIONAL INTERNAL ALARM BUTTONS AT DESKS OF THOSE LOCALS WHO HAVE GOOD VIEW OF CONSULATE ENTRANCES.

4. USIS OFFICE IN MEDAN IS LOCATED ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AWAY FROM CONSULATE AND CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS "WIDE-OPEN" TO ANYONE DESIRING TO ENTER DURING WORKING HOURS. LOCATED ON ONE OF CITY'S MAIN THOROUGHFARES AND STRUCTURED IN AN OPEN-AIR DESIGN, IT IS EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC OR TO PUBLIC THREATS. THE BPAO'S GLASS-ENCLOSED OFFICES ARE ON THE GROUND LEVEL NEAR THE FRONT ENTRANCE AND HAS NO SAFE ESCAPE ROUTE. IN VIEW OF BUILDING'S LOCATION AND STRUCTURE, POST BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FURTHER ENHANCE SECURITY OF BPAO AND STAFF WITHOUT UNDULY DETRACTING FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OF USIS ACTIVITIES. PERHAPS INSTALLATION OF SHATTER-PROOF GLASS IN BPAO OFFICE AREA WOULD AFFORD SOME MEASURE OF PROTECTION, BUT POST WISHES TO PURSUE THIS WITH REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER BEFORE MAKING ANY RECOMMENDATION.

5. AMERICAN STAFF RESIDENCES ARE ALL ENCLOSED BY FENCES OF CXDYING HEIGHTS AND COMPOSITION WHICH WOULD DO LITTLE TO HALT TERRORIST ATTACK. AMERICAN FAMILIES EMPLOY NIGHT GUARDS, BUT THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE. HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS HAVE BEEN BRIEFED TO REMAIN ALERT FOR STRANGERS AND TO KEEP DOORS LOCKED AT ALL TIMES. BELIEVE LITTLE ELSE CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE SECURITY OF RESIDENCES.

6. FOR JAKARTA; PURCHASE ORDERS ARE BEING SUBMITTED COVERING
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THREE ITEMS RECOMMENDED IN PARA THREE. WILL PURSUE QUESTION OF SECURITY OF USIS BPAO OFFICE WITH RSO DURING HIS VISIT TO MEDAN LATER THIS MONTH.
KILPATRICK

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